



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Second Sunday of the Easter, Year C - 27th April 2025

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

=====

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL) &
6.30pm (ST)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL),
10:30am (ST), 5pm (ST),
Vietnamese

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm(SL*)

Wed. 9:15am(ST)

1st Wed Mass of Anointing
@10am

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat.

*Rosary after Mass at SL

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30-6:10pm

ST: Fri

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

Second weekend of each
month - bring a plate to
share (optional)

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16, Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1, Revelation 1:9-19
Gospel Reflection on **John 20:19-31**

Meditation: Do you know the joy of the resurrection? The Risen Lord Jesus revealed the glory of his resurrection to his disciples gradually and over a period of time. Even after the apostles saw the empty tomb and heard the reports of Jesus' appearance to the women, they were still weak in faith and fearful of being arrested by the Jewish authorities. When Jesus appeared to them he offered proofs of his resurrection by showing them the wounds of his passion, his pierced hands and side. He calmed their fears and brought them peace, the peace which reconciles sinners and makes us friends of God.



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas by Paolo Moranda Cavazzola (1520), © Museo di Castelvecchio, Verona, Italy

Live and proclaim the Gospel of mercy in the power of the Holy Spirit: Jesus did something

which only love and trust can do. He commissioned his weak and timid apostles to bring the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This sending out of the disciples is parallel to the sending out of Jesus by his heavenly Father. Jesus fulfilled his mission through his perfect love and obedience to the will of his Father. He called his first disciples and he now calls each one of us to do the same. Just as he gave his first disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, so he breathes on each of us the same Holy Spirit who equips us with new life, power, joy, and courage to live each day as followers of the Risen Lord. The last apostle to meet the resurrected Lord was the first to go with him to Jerusalem at Passover time. The apostle Thomas was a natural pessimist. When Jesus proposed that they visit Lazarus after receiving news of his illness, Thomas said to the disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). While Thomas deeply loved the Lord, he lacked the courage to stand with Jesus in his passion and crucifixion. After Jesus' death, Thomas made the mistake of withdrawing from the other apostles. He sought loneliness rather than fellowship in his time of trial and adversity. He doubted the women who saw the resurrected Jesus and he doubted his own fellow apostles.

Through the gift of faith we recognize the Risen Lord and receive new life

When Thomas finally had the courage to rejoin the other apostles, the Lord Jesus made his presence known to him and reassured him that he had indeed overcome death and risen again. When Thomas recognized his Master, he believed and exclaimed that Jesus was truly Lord and truly God! Through the gift of faith we, too, proclaim that Jesus is our personal Lord and our God. He died and rose that we, too, might have new life in him. The Lord offers each of us new life in his Holy Spirit that we may know him personally and walk in this new way of life through the power of his resurrection. Do you believe in the good news of the Gospel and in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring you new life, hope, and joy?

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St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Next Week's Daily Readings 28 April - 4 May 2025

MONDAY, Apr 28 Acts 4:23-31, Ps 2:1-9, Jn 3:1-8 **St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr**

TUESDAY, Apr 29, Acts 4:32-37, Ps 91:1-2, 5 Jn 3:7-15 **St Catherine of Siena**

WEDNESDAY, Apr 30 Acts 5:17-26, Ps 33:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

THURSDAY, May 1 Acts 5:27-33, Ps 33:2, 9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36

FRIDAY, May 2 Acts 5:34-42, Ps 26:1-4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15 **St Athanasius, bishop, doctor**

SATURDAY, May 3 1 Cor 15:1-8, Ps 18:2-5, Jn 14:6-14 **Sts Philip and James, apostles**

SUNDAY, May 4 Acts 5:27-32, 40-41, Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13, Rev 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19
Third Sunday of Easter

*(Taken from
ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)*

The Jubilee Prayer



Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

26 and 27 April

Catherine Koh
Maria Deayton
Shirley Prabha
Jane D'Souza
Hung Nguyen & Hoang Nguyen

3 and 4 May

Lucy Ferris
Patrick Kelly
Darren McLean
Genevieve Hemsley
Gia Nghi & Ha Cao

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Anthony Fernandez
Peter Naughtin
Melina Barcellona
Laura Cigana
Hoang Nguyen

Edna Lee
Mary Italiano
Megan McLean
Pat Kawalevski
Hung Dinh

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Choir
Michelle Chen
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

Choir
Michelle Chen
Rosemary Donaldson
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 26/27 APR

5pm John Ryan
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

10th May - Sonya's team
Sonya O'Farrell, Netty Solomon,
Anthony Fernandez & Eng Peng Sim

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

26th April: Marie Parker
3rd May: Jenny & Vanessa Marino

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Easter flowers: Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 3/4 MAY

5:00pm Volunteer
8.30am Volunteer
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

10th May @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 8:
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay
Next week Team 1:
Owen Grealy & Anthony Yeo

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Margaret Anderson, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Pope Francis, Keith Stackpole, Rafael Igoa & Roger Jeans who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Dallas Lapsley, Kevin Campbell, Margaret Stainsby, Grace Mary Morton, Bernard Milner, Clifdon Rennick, Claire Kerin, Brian James Blanchfield, William Grealy, Josie Defina, David Nguyen Roco Nguyen Dung Nghi, Thomas Cattle, Teresa Mulder, Michael Luscombe and Patrick Hannebery.
May they rest in peace.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL:

For the use of the new technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

SOLEMN PONTIFICAL MASS: Archbishop Peter Comensoli will celebrate a Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday, 28th April at 1pm. All clergy and parishioners are warmly encouraged to attend.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Baskets are available on the altar of both churches for parishioners to leave their Project Compassion boxes & donations. Thanks for your generosity.

WEEKDAY MASS: NO MASS on Thurs. 1st May (9.15am S.T.), Fri. 2nd May (8.15am S.L. & 6.30pm S.T.) or Sat. 3rd May (9.15am S.L.) as Fr Alex will be away.

FEDERAL ELECTION FUNDRAISING (St Luke's): As you will know the Federal Election will be held on Saturday May 3rd and once again we are running our fundraising stall in collaboration with the school Parents' Association. Cake plates are available in the foyer at St Luke's for those who can assist by baking. We also need helpers to work on the stalls on the day so please contact Sonya in the parish office or sign up using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFAE2DA5F8C70-56321076-stlukes>

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY PLACES COLLECTION: Thanks to all parishioners for your very generous support of the Holy Places collection. A total of \$1,170.65 was collected at St Luke's and \$1,025.60 at St Timothy's.

BIBLE TIMELINE: Registrations for the Bible Timeline close on May 5th. Please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/DARVL> or pick up a registration form in the foyer of both churches.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: Remembering Pope Francis 🙏

MAJELLAN MEDIA: Vale Pope Francis

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests. The Second collection is for parish expenses

ST: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$62
Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$135
Vietnamese Donation: \$220.60

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$449.20
Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$461

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Response to the Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

DILEXIT NOS - He Loved Us

Pope Francis' encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus

“‘He loved us’, St Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom 8:37-39), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever ‘separate us from that love’: Pope Francis’ fourth Encyclical, which takes its title from the opening words, *Dilexit nos*. Here Pope Francis reflects on ‘the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ,’ calling for a renewal of authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith, the joy of serving, and the fervour of miss. In a time when many have become disconnected from authentic spiritual life and love, we are called to the Core of the Gospel - the love of Christ as revealed in His Sacred Heart.

Jesus’ open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His love and friendship, the Pope writes in the introductory paragraph. “For ‘He loved us first’ (cf. 1 Jn 4:10). Because of Jesus, ‘we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us’ (1 Jn 4:16).”

The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents God’s tender, incarnate, and transformative love for humanity. In a world driven by consumerism, rationalism, and disembodied spirituality, the Pope calls for a return to the heart—to rediscover the true meaning of life, identity, and relationship. The heart is where we meet God and discover our deepest identity. Modern society has devalued the heart in favour of reason, control, and productivity. The Sacred Heart teaches that love is the only force that unites and gives meaning. It reflects God’s desire for intimacy and mercy with humanity through personal encounters, compassion, and ultimately, His suffering and death on the Cross. The devotion to the Sacred Heart is rooted in Scripture and tradition—not just private revelations nor is it a nostalgic religious practice. It represents divine and human love, showing Jesus’ deep emotional and spiritual connection to humanity. It should lead to personal transformation, communal renewal, and a mission of mercy in the world. The love of Jesus satisfies a soul thirsting for authentic love and connection. From Christ’s pierced side flows the water of the Spirit, an open fountain of love and healing. Saints and mystics have rested in this Heart, finding peace and purpose.

To read more, hardcopies of *Dilexit Nos* available in the church foyer for \$5 per copy. Or <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>



The Footsteps of St Paul Pilgrimage in Greece, Turkey and Rome.

Date 20 April – 05/09 May 2026 with Fr Alex Chow

‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres’. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

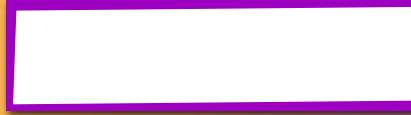
Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which this passionate letter and many other were written. It will be an opportunity of spiritual renewal, deepen our relationship with God as we reflect and experience the incredible journey of Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

Come and join us for **an information evening** at St Luke The Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South, starting at 7pm on Thursday 05 June 2025

For more information please go to <https://www.olivetreetravel.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Flyer-for-14-day-Itinerary-to-Greece-Turkey-for-Fr-Alex-Chow-low-res.pdf> . To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person is payable by 16th June 2025 (unless sold out prior). Take a copy of the flyer at the church foyer or contact Father Alex directly at alexander.chow@cam.org.au.

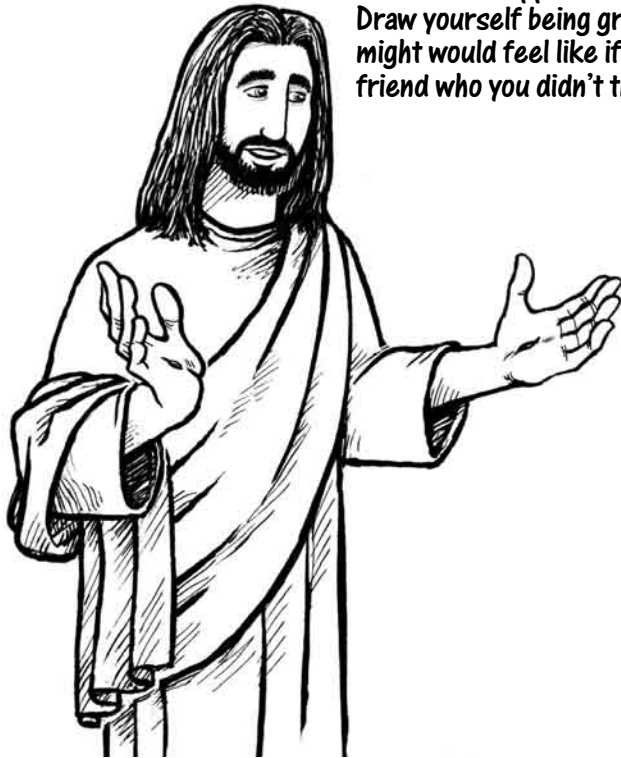


Happy are those who do not see and yet believe!



2nd Sunday of Easter, Year C

When Jesus appeared to his disciples they were very happy. Draw yourself being greeted by Jesus. Write down what it might feel like if you were re-united with a close friend who you didn't think you would ever see again.



There are many things present in our lives that we don't see with our eyes. Circle the words which represent things we do not see.

BIBLE
LOVE
JOY
ALTAR
BREATH
CHALICE
CRUCIFIX
FORGIVENESS
PEACE
FLOWERS
CANDLE
HOPE

Complete the Text maze:

"You are my Lord and my God!"

START

W	B	O	I	G	E	T	R	Y
S	R	O	L	T	C	A	U	O
L	D	G	Y	M	E	R	C	W
D	A	N	S					
R	C	D	E					
Q	Y	M	P					
U	G	O	D					

FINISH



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER— 27 APRIL 2025



COLLECT

God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

The liturgical season of Easter is structured after the pattern of the two-volume work comprising the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles in which Luke lets forty days elapse between Jesus' death and resurrection and ascension, with a further ten days before the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. However, this should not be taken as an historical timeline.

The Gospel of John from which today's reading is taken dismantles Luke's sequence of events. On the very first Sunday of the Resurrection, in the evening of the empty tomb, the risen Christ stands among the gathered apostles. He greets them with peace and sends them on mission. He breathes on them saying, *Receive the Holy Spirit*. All of this occurs on the same day.

The Paschal Mystery encompasses the whole event of the passion, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The presence of both the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit are dimensions of the same reality. Fortunately, the liturgical seasons give us a time of grace to embrace our baptism and enter into the fullness of this revelation.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 5:12–16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

First Reading

The Acts of the Apostles takes up the story of the early Church after the Gospels end with Jesus' death and resurrection. In the early chapters, there are several vignettes giving an overview of the earliest Christian communities. This is the third of them.

They give an idealised picture of the Church which needs to be complemented by Paul's candid critique of the problems and struggles in the Churches he founded. Notwithstanding any factions, jealousy or failings, these overviews focus on the positives and inspire us with what is possible.

In this vignette, the community is growing and is widely praised. It is presented as continuing the ministry of Jesus, especially his healing ministry among the sick and troubled. Read it with optimism. Let it inspire and encourage the assembly.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2–4, 22–27

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

or

R. Alleluia.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;

we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

○ Lord, grant us salvation;

○ Lord, grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord

is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;

the Lord God is our light. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Once again, we respond with Psalm 117/118. The psalm is upbeat and incorporates some well-known phrases. It is a joyful song of deliverance from distress which has a particular affinity with the mystery of death and resurrection.

The response is the first verse of the psalm. Singing it should present no issues but, if it is read, the tone of voice needs to be sustained at the end of the first line and come to rest at the end of the second to let the assembly know when to come in.

There are three six-line stanzas, not the usual four-line verses. Here too, the reader needs to shape the lines with their tone of voice to cue the assembly. Eye contact will also help.

"Sons" could be read or sung as "children".

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse **1:9–13, 17–19**

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.'

I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

A reading from the holy Gospel **according to John 20:19–31**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger

Second Reading

This is the first of five Second Readings which are taken from the Book of Revelation or the Apocalypse. Probably written by a disciple of John (not John himself), it is addressed to a persecuted Church to give them hope.

It is a highly imaginative work that needs to be proclaimed and heard in the mode of poetic fantasy or legend. Its visions and symbols evoke the cosmic battle between good and evil and assure the Christian community of the ultimate triumph of good.

Interpretation of this book will be misleading and mistaken if one attempts to apply it to recent or current events. It is best not to try to give specific meaning to particular details.

Today's reading describes the risen Christ in glory: he is the Living One. As we said when we marked the design on the Easter Candle: *Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to him and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and forever.*

Gospel

This Gospel passage is read every year on the Second Sunday because it recounts the events of the evening of Easter Day and also of its octave, that is today. Here Jesus' disciples encounter the risen Lord, and after a week, so too does Thomas who was not there on Easter Sunday evening.

The fledgling community is filled with the Spirit and commissioned to continue the ministry of Christ. The risen Christ is in their midst. But then, as now, this presence remains something of a mystery. It is not like a person who wakes up from a coma. Yes, the disciples can see and Thomas can touch his wounds. This is not an apparition; he is real. And yet he is able to stand among them with a greeting of peace even though the doors were locked. We say "seeing is believing" but there is more here than meets the eye.

The encounter with the risen Lord is transformative. The disciples move from fear to astonishment to joy when they see the Lord. Thomas moves from his refusal to believe to faith and veneration. The challenge for us who hear the gospel is the same. John concludes his narrative by saying that he has written all these things down so *that you too may believe that Jesus is the Christ... and have life through his name.*

Can our proclamation of the text at Mass achieve this exalted purpose for the assembly?

here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

BLESSING FOR EASTER

May almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend us from every assault of sin.

Amen.

And may he, who restores us to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow us with the prize of immortality.

Amen.

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on us and remain with us for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Easter, Roman Missal p. 422)



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



**20TH APRIL –
3RD MAY 2026**

LED BY
FR ALEX CHOW

14
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE:
per person (twin share)

**OPTIONAL SINGLE
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:**

AUD\$ 8,490*

AUD\$ 1,150

**FULLY
ESCORTED**

*Conditions apply. Subject to change.
Price estimated based on group
size of 20 pilgrims. Actual pricing
will be known in late May 2025.

REGISTER HERE



'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres'. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love'

(Ephesians 4:2)

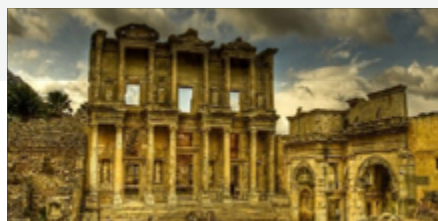
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written. It will be an opportunity of spiritual renewal, deepen our relationship with God as we reflect and experience the incredible journey of Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

REGISTER FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION at 7pm ON THURSDAY, 5th JUNE

* Enjoy full travel briefing * Meet your fellow Pilgrims * Have your questions answered

CONTACT FR ALEX OR OLIVE TREE TRAVEL TO REGISTER & GET THE DETAILS



NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Alex or Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE.](#)
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person is payable by 16th June 2025 (unless sold out prior)
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Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
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103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



DAY 1 MONDAY 20TH APRIL

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Melbourne this evening on your Emirates flight to Dubai. On arrival, transfer to your connecting flight to Athens.

DAY 2 TUESDAY 21ST APRIL

ARRIVE ATHENS

Arrive in Athens today. Athens is the thriving capital of Greece but more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys. On arrival in **Athens** we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure. Athens overnight (D)

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

ATHENS - CORINTH - ATHENS

Journey out to **Ancient Corinth** where the Apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God and converting many. We visit the ancient ruins and see the site where he preached the Gospel from the **Rostrum**. Also visit the Peirene fountain, and the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting. Finally we come to **Cenchreae**, the ancient port from where Paul said farewell to the believers and departed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18). Return to Athens in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 4 THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

ATHENS

When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city that worshipped pagan gods. St Paul was taken before the city council at the Areopagus Hill, a rough outcrop of limestone rock from which he preached the Gospel message to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:16-21). We begin our day with a tour of **Christian Athens** including the **Acropolis**, the **Areopagus** where St Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of "the Unknown God" (Acts 17:15-34) and the **Parthenon**. Continue for a visit the **Ancient Agora** and a bus tour to see the highlights of the city including the Kallimarmaro Stadium, dating back to 330 B.C. and restored for the first modern Olympic Games held here in 1896. Visit to the New Acropolis museum. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Athens. (BD)

DAY 5 FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

ATHENS - METEORA - KALAMBAKA

Depart this morning and travel north to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of **Meteora**. Marvel at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their Monastic community of Meteora. We visit two of the Byzantine Meteora monasteries. Among striking scenery and perched on top of huge rocks, the ageless monasteries of Meteora seem to be suspended in mid-air. The monasteries contain beautiful Byzantine art and offer an insight to the mystic world of the monks still residing there. Mass this evening, will be held in a private room at the hotel before dinner and overnight in Kalambaka (BD)

DAY 6 SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

KALAMBAKA - VERGINA - VERIA - THESSALONIKI

Depart this morning to **Vergina**, the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom. Here we visit the "Vergina findings", treasures of Ancient Macedonia and the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. A few minutes away is Veria, located on the ruins of **Ancient Beroea**, is one of Apostle Paul's stops. Here we see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. Continue our drive to Thessaloniki. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

DAY 7 SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

THESSALONIKI

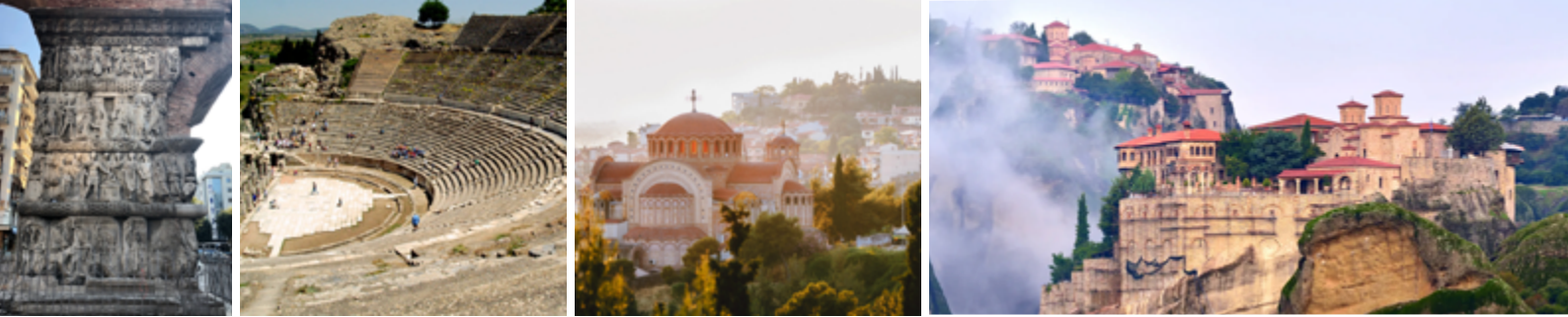
Today is for Thessaloniki exploration. Welcome to Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. See the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius and the Roman Agora where St Paul once preached. We shall visit St Demetrios' Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and will drive up to the upper town, which offers a marvellous view of the city. We will also have the chance to celebrate Mass at the Catholic Church. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

DAY 8 MONDAY 27TH APRIL

PHILIPPI - KAVALA - THESSALONIKI

Arise and journey along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to nearby Philippi, named after Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40). Visit the Baptistery of Lydia for a beautiful outdoor Mass on the River Zygaktis, and renew

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our Baptismal vows. Visit the market place (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. We will also see the famous Acropolis, Basilica and the theatre. It was here that he established the first Christian Church in Europe. Visit the Octagonal church, an early Christian monument thought to be built on the site where St. Paul had established a house of prayer. Finally, we drive to the port in Kavala (Neapolis in New Testament times), where Paul landed with Timothy, Silas, and Luke. Return to your hotel in Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 9 TUESDAY 28TH APRIL **THESSALONIKI – IZMIR (SMYRNA) - KUSADASI** This morning, we depart Thessaloniki Airport for our flight to Izmir (via Istanbul or Athens). Upon arrival we will be met by our Turkish guide and commence our touring programme by visiting the Ruins of Ancient Smyrna, one of the 7 Churches. After the Agora visit we will drive to the coastal city of Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (D)

DAY 10 WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL **EPHESUS PILGRIMAGE**
 Today we visit the famous city of Ephesus. Ephesus, as we will see, is in a very good state of preservation and the overall existing view of this ancient city will make it evident that she was a wealthy, cultural, and commercial centre in the 1st century. Paul's preaching in the area resulted with the uproar of the Guild of Silversmiths and the evangelisation of the whole province of Asia. Highlights include the ancient temple to the Roman Emperor, the 'slope' houses, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan, the brothel, and the large theatre in which the riot of Acts 19 took place. Not far from the theatre, we visit the Church of St Mary, where it is said that Mary spent the later years of her life. Celebrate Mass. Finally you will visit the restored remains of the 6th century Basilica of St John at Celcuk where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist. Return to your hotel in Kusadasi for dinner and overnight (BD)

DAY 11 THURSDAY 30TH APRIL **KUSADASI - ISTANBUL** After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for Izmir Airport to catch our flight at 10:00AM. On arrival, we will be met and transferred to old city to visit Basilica Cistern, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city. We'll also get to see one of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. This afternoon visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and nearby Hagia Sophia (meaning 'Holy Wisdom'). Built in 548 AD, Hagia Sophia was the greatest Church in Christendom until 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire. Onwards then to the Grand Bazaar, with over 4000 exotic tiny shops. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

DAY 12 FRIDAY 01ST MAY **ISTANBUL**
 Commence the day with a special morning cruise along the Bosphorus River, where you will sail past the Ottoman Palaces, Byzantine fortresses, Beylerbeyi Palace and Suleiman's Mosque. An opportunity to celebrate Mass at a Catholic Church. Enjoy a brief visit to Topkapi Palace. After the visit, transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

DAY 13 SATURDAY 02ND MAY **ISTANBUL - AUSTRALIA**
 End your pilgrimage with a transfer to Istanbul Airport for your departure flight to Dubai. Transfer to your connecting flight back to Melbourne. (B)

DAY 14 SUNDAY 03RD MAY **ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**
 Arrive back to Melbourne this evening with wonderful memories from your pilgrimage!

**

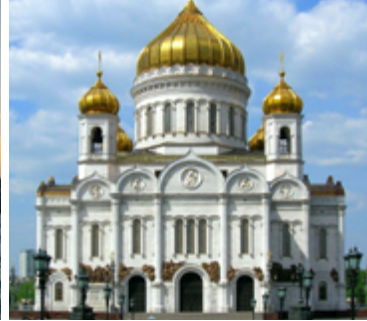
Itinerary subject to change **

Interested in continuing the Footsteps of St Paul and visiting other amazing sites in Rome?

Instead of flying straight home from Istanbul, we will hold a limited number of seats out of Rome, allowing pilgrims to enjoy an independently arranged Rome Pilgrimage in the Eternal city and surroundings as organized with/by Fr Alex Chow.

Fr Alex has lived in Rome as a seminarian for 4 years. Fr. Alex has offered to assist pilgrims in finding

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modest but clean and comfortable accommodation. The Roman stay will consist of the following (depending on time availability):

1. Sites of St Paul: Basilica of St Paul Outside the Wall, Tre Fontana (where St Paul was imprisoned and executed), via Ostiense (where St Peter and St Paul met in Rome)
2. 3 major Pontifical Basilica: Basilica of St Peter, Basilica of Mary Major, Basilica of John Lateran
3. Churches of Saints of the Roman Canon: St Cosmos and Damian, St Clement, St Agnes in Agony, St Cecilia, St Bartholomew
4. Beautiful Rome: Colosseum, Rome Forum, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza di Popolo, etc...
5. Churches of the Passion of Jesus Christ: Church of the Holy Steps, Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, Basilica di Santa Prassede (Column of the Flagellation)
6. Elegant Churches: San Luigi dei Francesi (Caravaggio - calling of Matthew), Basilica of Saint Mary of Minerva (the tomb of St Catherine of Siena), Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria (Bernini's dramatic carving "The Ecstasy of Teresa."), Chiesa del Gesu.

****Olive Tree Travel will arrange your flight from Istanbul – Rome****

PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Emirates Flight from Melbourne to Athens via Dubai and then return Istanbul to Melbourne via Dubai
- One way flight from Thessaloniki to Izmir
- One way flight from Izmir to Istanbul
- 11 nights in total: 7 nights in Greece and 4 nights in Turkey in hotel accommodation in twin share rooms.
- Breakfast and Dinner daily. Breakfasts and Dinners at hotels unless otherwise specified.
- All tips, gratuities and portorage (where available)
- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Air-conditioned coach

NOT INCLUDED:

- Drinks with meals
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals, laundry
- Lunches
- Turkey Visa – currently US\$66 and obtained privately before departure

HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

• Hotel Luwian	Athens	3 nights
• Hotel Amalia	Kalambaka	1 night
• Hotel Imperial Plus	Thessaloniki	3 nights
• Korumar Hotel	Kusadasi	2 nights
• Port Bosphorous Hotel	Istanbul	2 nights

NEXT STEPS

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South and St Timothy Forest Hill
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Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE



By
Olivia
Dawson